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NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON INLAND WATERWAYS

RIVER FLEET SURPASSES 1968 PLAN -- Krasnoye Znamya, No 2, 4 Jan 49

Z. Shashkov, Minister of the River Fleet USSR, reports in a letter to Stalin that the 1948 quota for cargo tonnage was fulfilled 106 percent and 104 percent in ton-kilometers. Cargo increased 29 percent in tonnage and 27 percent in ton-kilometers over 1947. The 1948 plan was fulfilled for hauling grain, salt, coal, and timber by ship and by raft. Freight cost was 4 percent below plan and 14 percent below the 1947 cost. Enterprises of the Ministry realized more than 86 million rubles' profits above the plan, exceeded the 11-month gross production plan by 10.3 percent, and exceeded the 1947 gross production figure by 23.6 percent.

NEVINOMYSSK CANAL COMPLETED -- Rechnoy Transport, No 12, 11 Feb 49

Construction of the Nevinnomyssk Canal has been completed. This canal will derive its water from the Kuban' River, which will be spanned by a huge reinforced-concrete dam at Nevinnomyssk. Along the course of the Nevinnomyssk Canal, the Kuban' water will flow into the Bol'shoy Yegorlyk, from there to Manyu, and will then enter the Veselovskoye and Proletarskoye reservoirs, the total capacity of which is estimated at 4 billion cubic meters.

Kolkhozes and sovkhхозes of Stavropol' Krai will receive an abundant supply of Kuban' River water to improve their farm crops. In addition, a new waterway, navigable for shallow vessels, will be opened on the Rost'ovskiy Yegorlyk and Zapadnyy Manych rivers.

The Veselovskoye and Proletarskoye reservoirs, filled with Kuban' water, will be navigated by the Don River fleet. The former navigable section from Ust'-Manych to Khutor (farm) Veselovskiy will now be extended as far as the Proletarskaya landing, an addition of 100 kilometers. New landings are being planned in this section: Manych, Novoselki, Zherebki, Budennovskaya, Proletarskaya.

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In connection with the opening of the Nevinnomyeskiy Canal to Don River navigation, plans are being made to transport several thousand tons of grain, farm products, etc., in 1949.

INGODA RIVER CHANNEL TO BE CLEARED -- Zabaykal'skiy Rabochiy, No 6, 9 Jan 49

The Chita "Oblrechtrans" (Oblast Administration of the Utilization of Small Rivers for Transport) is making preparations for clearing out the channel of the Ingoda River. Detailed surveys were made in the autumn of 1948 in the section of the river in Karymskiy Rayon. The large boulders which prevent navigation were marked on special maps, and preparations for blasting were made with the approach of winter. Holes were drilled in the areas where the large boulders occur. After the river has frozen to the bottom, the boulders will be blasted out. A 32-kilometer section of the Ingoda River will be cleared out in this way in the spring. A 60-kilometer section of river bottom between Chita and Darasun will be inspected this summer.

IRTYSH BASIN TO BE SURVEYED -- Rechnoy Transport, No 13, 15 Feb 49

Survey groups of the Administration of Riverways of the Irtysh basin are surveying 96,000 kilometers of navigable rivers. On each one of their trips, accurate photographs of sandbanks are made and depth measurements taken in the large rivers of West Siberia such as the Ob', Irtysh, Tavda, Tobol, and Tura.

The survey parties are of great service in helping ship captains to navigate safely. On the basis of survey material, the Omsk Cartographic Factory has already published eight pilot maps of the Irtysh Basin, two of them in 1948. During the 1949 navigation period, surveyors will collect material for a map of the extreme northern section of the Ob' River basin.

The best results in the 1948 survey work were obtained by the Tobol'sk technical division (chief engineer, Kargopolov). In exploring the Irtysh region from Ust'ma to the mouth of the Konda River, workers of this division made about 100 corrections to the pilot map and sent their material to the administration one month ahead of schedule. At the present time, corrections of existing pilot maps are being made from the material submitted.

ICE STOPS NAVIGATION ON ARAL SEA -- Bolshevik Altaya, No 3, 5 Jan 49

Navigation on the Aral Sea has stopped because of ice. The Diesel ship Kirov, which recently arrived in the port of Aral'sk, had to make the last 40 kilometers of its voyage through ice. Freight turnover at the port has increased many thousand tons as compared with last year. The ship repair plant is preparing the fleet for next year's navigation season.

NEW ICE-CUTTING MACHINE TESTED -- Sovetskaya Latvya, No 29, 5 Feb 49

A new electric ice-cutting machine for use on rivers and lakes has been designed by the Leningrad Institute of River Fleet Engineers. A model, tested on the Volga River, showed a tenfold increase in operating efficiency.

AMUR RIVER TANKER EXCEEDS QUOTA -- Rechnoy Transport, No 13, 15 Feb 49

The oil tanker Kommunist which navigates on the Amur River fulfilled the navigation plan 121.5 percent, the Stakhanovite plan 106.5 percent, and the Five-Year Plan 75.5 percent. The average speed, excluding stops, was 183.5 kilometers per day instead of 162 as planned. Loading was increased 3 percent over the plan. The productivity of one rated horsepower per day was 142.5 percent of the plan index. The ship has conserved 82.7 tons of fuel and 3 tons of lubricant. Operating cost of 1,000 ton-kilometers was lowered by one ruble 18 kopeks.

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However, there are still a number of bottlenecks which hinder smooth operation of the Amur steamer. For example, a total of 399 hours was lost in waiting for the ship to be readied for departure, 201 hours were spent on roadstead work, 48 hours were necessary for pumping water out of the wooden barges, 292 hours were spent on different types of work not connected with freight transport, etc., resulting in a total of 1,097 hours lost, not including 200 hours of idle time due to storms, fogs, etc.

The "Dal'neftekombinat" (Far East Petroleum Combine), which is serviced by the Communist, is to be blamed for a great amount of the time lost by the towboat fleet.

REPAIRS OF TWO SHIPS COMPLETED -- Sovetskaya Latvya, No 31, 8 Feb 49

Repairs have been completed on the steamship Koknesis and the Diesel ship Stradnivyeks of the Daugavpils (Latvian SSR) unit of the river fleet. They are being readied for navigation.

KLAPPEDA PORT SPEEDS UP SHIP REPAIRS -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 32, 9 Feb 49

Klappeda river-fleet workers pledged to repair their entire river fleet 40 days ahead of schedule. Steamer and barge crews are taking active part in the repair work. As a result, 95 percent of the power-driven vessels are ready for navigation. The power-driven barges Neva, Don, and others have also been repaired. All crew members taking part in the repair of barges are consistently fulfilling their assignments 200 and 220 percent.

OB' FLEET GETS NEW DIESEL SHIPS -- Rechnoy Transport, No 9, 1 Feb 49

The port of Novosibirsk has received the first consignment of new 150-hp Diesel ships. Four ships arrived at the port assembled on railroad flatcars. The ships are of excellent postwar construction and have their steering gear and instruments in the steering house, enabling one person to operate the ship. New Diesel ships will be put into operation in the Ob' River Fleet at the beginning of the navigation season.

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